Sunday Worship Service – November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7 (p.175-183)

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome Statement

As a sign that our welcome statement reflects that we are all committed to the acceptance and inclusion of all people, just as Jesus taught us and modelled for us, we say together:

You are welcome here,
you whose face reflects the Divine, whose spirit I may not define,
you, whose eyes have seen, what I will never dream.
You, whose frame is bent or broken, whose mind fears the unspoken.

Recognizing that each person is a unique child of God, created in the image of God, we celebrate diversity through all the variations of age, ability, culture, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, family configuration, beliefs, personality, and economic circumstances. You will be honoured here.

Introduction to the Bible Readings

The reading from 1 Thessalonians reminds us that the circumstances of our lives are not always under our control. The gospel reading reminds us that faith invites us to align ourselves with God, even though that can be risky.

Prayer of Confession

Again we must confess, Creator of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make. Have mercy, journeying God, have mercy on us.

Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ.

Words of Forgiveness

Hear these words of forgiveness: God says to us: "Well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful in a few things, I will put in charge of many things; enter into my joy." This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness. We are forgiven in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#688 Gathering Hymn *"Lord of Light"* (v.1-2,4)

1. **Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,**
   use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
   use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
   Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.
2. **By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,**
   by the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
   by the victories of meekness, through reproach and suff'ring won:
   Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.
4. **By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;**
   by the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all and healing light;
   by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one:
   Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.

p.175 **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

p.175 ***Kyrie***

Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy.

p.176 **Canticle of Praise *"Gloria"***

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, **even when we turn away from you, your Spirit invites us to remember that you chose us to be your servant people. Awaken us to the power and gifts you pour into us for the good of creation, and grant that we may be faithful in all things, producing abundantly as we work to build your realm. Amen.**

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed
the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You put our sins right in front of you,
set our hidden faults in the light from your face.
So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. (NRSVUE)

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

In the New Testament reading, we hear that though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5:

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters and siblings,
you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know
very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will
come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters and siblings,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the
night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do,
but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night,
and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day,
let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet
the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us,
so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing. (NRSVUE)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.179 **Gospel Acclamation**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

In the gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await Jesus' return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 25. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"The kingdom of heaven is like a wealthy landowner who was leaving on a trip and called in 3 workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to each one's ability. Then the landowner went away.

Immediately the worker who received five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

After a long absence, the traveller returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, “You entrusted me with 5 thousand; here are 5 thousand more.”

The landowner said, “Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come share my joy!”

The one who had received the 2 thousand then stepped forward with the additional 2, saying, “You entrusted me with 2 thousand; here are 2 thousand more.”

The landowner said to this one, “Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!”

Finally the one who received the 1 thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, “Knowing your ruthlessness – you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter – and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.”

The landowner exclaimed, “You worthless lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don’t sow and gather where I don’t scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with 10 thousand.

Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there us wailing and grinding of teeth.” (TIB)

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#678 Hymn of the Day *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*
(to the tune "HYMN TO JOY" from #836)

1. **God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:**
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
2. **Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:**
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
3. **Treasure, too, you have entrusted,**
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

p.105 **Apostles' Creed** *(inside back cover of ELWB)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession[1]

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

[1] https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. Comfort those in hospital. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, property & maintenance team, altar guild, visual arts ministry. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Presentation of the Gifts *(offering is brought forward)*

Offering Prayer

Living Source of every blessing, **use these gifts for your service, that the blessings we have received from your hand may increase as they go forth to bring grace to the world. Make our hearts generous, we pray, for you have been generous with us. Amen.**

p.180 **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who in dying destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.181 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

You are our strength, God of holiness, and Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior.
When our lives are filled with despair, Jesus is our hope;
when we are lost and cannot find our way, Jesus is our help;
when the world closes its doors and heart to us, Jesus is our refuge;
when sin and death hunger for us, Jesus is our liberator,
present with us in this life and in the one to come.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Eucharistic Prayer VII

With this bread and cup we remember Jesus,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection,
which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through
your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us
and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and generous God, receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until,
needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the presence of Jesus:
through whom all glory and honor is yours,
O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Communion Distribution

p.182 ***Lamb of God***

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

#483 Communion Hymn *"Here Is Bread"*

1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Refrain: **In the bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.**
In this moment by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know His grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here. *(Refrain)*

3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. *(Refrain)*

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion[2]

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing[3]

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,

[2] https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts/2026-11-08
[3] https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2023-11-19/0#texts

give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God our Creator,
Jesus, our healer,
And the Holy Spirit, our comforter,
be with you today and always. Amen.

#726 Sending Hymn *"Light Dawns on a Weary World"*

1. Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2. Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

3. Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.
Thanks be to God!